

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 IO-14 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05

USIA-15 COME-00 TRSE-00 EPG-02 /065 W

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R 250215Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1554

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS MANILA 9786

DEPT PASS TO AGR, MR. HUME AND MR. NOVOTNY

FOR LONDON IWC DELEGATION, MR. MEEKER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNWFC, EAGR

SUBJ: RICE DISCUSSIONS IN WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

1. SUMMARY: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC), IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS, GENERALLY RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO PROPOSAL OF PHILIPPINE MINAGR, ENDORSED BY SECRETARY BERGLAND FOR DISCUSSIONS WHICH MAY LEAD TO AN INTERNATIONAL RICE AGREEMENT. COUNCIL AUTHORIZED ITS PRESIDENT TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS WITH MAJOR IMPORTING AND EXPORTING GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS FAO, UNCTAD, IWC ON NEXT STEPS FOR GETTING SUCH DISCUSSIONS UNDERWAY. END SUMMARY.

2. ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, JUNE 23 AND 24, COUNCIL REVIEWED DISCUSSIONS INITIATED ON TUESDAY BY PHILIPPINE MINAGR ON ACTIONS THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN TOWARD AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON RICE. REPRESENTATIVES FROM UNCTAD AND FAO INDICATED THEIR RESPECTIVE ROLES.

3. UNCTAD REPRESENTATIVES SAID THEY ARE WILLING TO ADD

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RICE TO GROUP OF COMMODITIES NOW INCLUDED IN THEIR WORK TOWARD AN INTEGRATED COMMODITY AGREEMENT. HE POINTED OUT THAT, PREVIOUSLY, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD NOT WANTED TO INCLUDE RICE. IF RICE WERE ADDED, UNCTAD WOULD BEGIN WORKING ON IT ON SAME BASIS AS THE OTHER COMMODITIES NOW INCLUDED.

4. FAO REPRESENTATIVE POINTED OUT THAT ITS GROUP ON COMMODITIES HAD STUDIED RICE PROBLEMS FOR MANY YEARS AND ITS EXPERIENCE AND PAPERS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR NEW EFFORT. FAO IS NOW PROVIDING SECRETARIAT SERVICES FOR UNCTAD'S STUDY GROUPS COVERING AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.

5. SEVERAL EEC COUNTRIES AND JAPAN CAUTIONED AGAINST EXPECTING USEFUL RESULTS FROM SUCH DISCUSSIONS - GIVEN THE HISTORICAL EVIDENCE THAT AGREEMENTS HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE. AUSTRALIA CALLED ATTENTION TO FAO'S REPORT, WHICH RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES FOR AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON RICE AND SAID WFC SHOULD NOT BE A NEGOTIATING AGENCY. JAPAN POINTED OUT THAT ANY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON RICE COULD BE EFFECTIVE ONLY IF THE PRC WERE INVOLVED.

6. U.S. REAFFIRMED SECRETARY BERGLAND'S STATEMENT OF TUESDAY THAT USG WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN NEW RICE DISCUSSIONS. JAPANESE DELEGATION, PRIVATELY AND POINTEDLY, ASKED IF US REALLY WANTED TO BE INVOLVED. US DELEGATION RESPONSE WAS REITERATION, OF SECRETARY BERGLAND'S STATEMENT. US PROPOSED THAT COUNCIL PRESIDENT MAKE INFORMAL INQUIRIES OF CONCERNED GOVERNMENTS, UNCTAD, FAO, AND IWC TO DETERMINE MOST APPROPRIATE AGENCY FOR INITIAL STUDIES AND LATER DISCUSSIONS. COUNCIL PRESIDENT, WITH TACIT AND APPROVAL OF COUNCIL, ACCEPTED US PROPOSAL.

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7. COMMENT: US WILLINGNESS TO ENTER DISCUSSIONS ON RICE WAS GENERALLY WELL RECEIVED AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF US POLICY TAKING THEIR INTERESTS MORE FULLY INTO ACCOUNT. SINCE COUNCIL PRESIDENT HAD EARLIER INDICATED DESIRE TO BE AN ACTIVIST IN CARRYING OUT WFC MANDATES, CONCRETE US PROPOSAL FOR INITIATING CONSULTATIONS WITH HEADS OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WAS CLEARLY WELCOMED. HE ALSO ASSURED COUNCIL HE WOULD REPORT TO AGRMIN ON RESULTS OF HIS CONSULTATIONS. STULL

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Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
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